Accountability in IARI

3720. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH :
SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to CAG report number 5 of 2002, IARI's objective of Centre for Academic Excellence could not be achieved in full despite the fact that the strength of faculty members during 1995-2001 was three times the number of students admitted for different courses;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the number of in-house projects during 1995-2001 and the number of projects for which final reports were available;

(d) whether objectives in many of the projects were only partially achieved resulting in unfruitful expenditure; and

(e) if so, how Government propose to impose accountability in IARI ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) A para "Review on IARI" has been included in the CAG Report No. 5 of 2002. The Action Taken Notes (ATN) to this para were furnished to the Principal Director of Audit (Scientific Department), New Delhi for vetting on 6.8.2002. However, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) achieved its objective as a Centre of Academic Excellence and has retained its status as a reputed Institution. In addition to their participation in the teaching activities, faculty members are also involved in the research and frontline extension activities of the Institute.

(b) After receipt of vetted comments from Office of PDA (SD), New Delhi, and receipt of report of the on-going quinquennial review of IARI by eminent experts, further necessary action, if any, required will be taken.

(c) In IARI, there were 402 in-house projects under implementation during 1995-2001. Out of these, 210 projects started from April, 1994 and from 1999 onwards the Institute has initiated 192 new research projects of 5 years duration. A number of projects were re-mandated to avoid duplication of research efforts. The final reports of 199 projects are available, in IARI.

(d) No, Sir. The objectives were achieved. A series of high yielding varieties have been developed in cereals, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables, fruits and flowers. The Institute developed a number of farm implements, agro-chemicals, bio-control strategies of pest and disease management, and Gamma radiation techniques for pest control. Significant achievements have been made in genetic engineering

for biotic and abiotic stress management, molecular mapping and DNA fingerprinting.

(e) Question does not arise.

Setting up of Regional Centre of the National Institute of Organic Farming in Karnataka

3721. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a regional centre of the National Institute of Organic Farming in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether any place has been identified for this purpose in the State;

(c) what are the advantages of having this proposed centre in the State; and

(d) the amount proposed to be spent for centre every year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) During the Tenth Plan, a proposal for a new scheme, 'National Project on Organic Farming' with an outlay of Rs. 99.58 crores is under process for approval which includes setting up of a National Institute of Organic Farming, whose function will be to promote and facilitate various aspects of organic farming in the country. One of the Regional Biofertilizer Development Centre located at Bangalore, is proposed to be renamed as Regional Organic Farming Centre (ROFC). The scheme envisages *inter-alia* the following :—

- Putting in place a system of certification of organic produce including prescribing National Standards of organic farming;
- Capacity building for organic farming;
- Support for commercial production units of organic inputs like fruits and vegetables waste compost units, biofertilizer production units and hatcheries for vermiculture, etc.;
- Promotion and extension of organic farming.

The ROFC, Bangalore will undertake the above activities in Southern Zone.